

**Minutes of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC
meeting held on the 9th April 2026 at 14:30hrs in the
Council Chamber, County Hall, Carricklawn.**

Presiding:	Cllr John Fleming (Chairperson)
Councillors:	Cllr Joe Sullivan (An Cathaoirleach – Wexford County Council) Cllr Michael Sheehan Cllr Leonard Kelly Cllr Donal Kenny
Remote:	Cllr Robbie Staples
Sectoral Reps:	Paula Roche (CEO County Wexford Chamber) Stephen Murphy (Trade Union) Ernest Levingstone (Business / Commercial) Jaimie Williams (PPN - Social Inclusion) Roisin Markham (PPN – Environmental)
Officials:	Liz Hore – Director of Services Angela Lawless – Senior Economic Development Officer Sean Meyler – Senior Engineer / Special Projects Billy Byrne – Tourism Development Officer Jill Kelleher – Business Development Officer Dean Waters – Economic Development Officer
Apologies:	Cllr Ger Carthy Cllr Paddy Kavanagh John Kelly (Farming) Michael Bennett (Development / Construction) Breege Cosgrove – Head of Enterprise & Economic Development Annette Rowsome – Senior Enterprise Development Officer

Cllr John Fleming welcomed all those in attendance and commenced the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC – 15th December 2025

The following amendment of wording to section #4, paragraph #4, of the presented draft minutes was requested by Roisin Markham (PPN - Environmental) and approved by those present.

“...Graiguenamanagh’s community-owned campervan facilities and community wealth-building could be looked at in County Wexford as an economically viable model...”

Following this amendment, the Minutes of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC of December 15th, 2025, were then proposed by Cllr Leonard Kelly and seconded by Cllr Donal Kenny.

2. Consultation on National Opera House Strategic Review and Strategy Development - Aibhlin McCrann, Communique International (Consultants).

An open discussion took place on the benefits of, and the ongoing difficulties which faced the National Opera House with the main topics considered being as follows:

- *Funding Structure*
- *Increase of Event Type*
- *Overall Inclusiveness*
- *Tourism Opportunities*

Liz Hore, Director of Services, concluded that the National Opera House was an iconic building showcasing Wexford and Ireland to an international audience, which would benefit from increased government funding and additional stakeholder involvement. Also noting that the venue had the ability to attract a broader range of national and international events which could increase inclusiveness and positively impact its economic viability in the future.

3. Update on the implementation of the Wexford Destination & Experience Development Plan - Brian O'Flynn Head of Ireland's Ancient East, Fáilte Ireland & Orla Delaney Wexford Officer Ireland's Ancient East, Fáilte Ireland (Remote).

Brian O'Flynn and Orla Delaney gave an overview of aims and progress of the **Destination & Experience Development Plan (DEDP)**, which was launched in July 2025, supporting 5-year action plans for local destinations incorporating 65 individual projects, with a strategic vision running to 2035

A discussion followed.

Following a specific query from Cllr Leonard Kelly, Orla Delaney confirmed that the current number of "bed nights" in Wexford Town stand at 2381.

Brian O'Flynn advised that the 5-year action plan sets out priority projects and initiatives with specific targeted outcomes, and delivery will be led through a collaborative partnership of Wexford County Council, Fáilte Ireland, Visit Wexford, industry and communities.

Liz Hore, Director of Services, advised the committee that the **DEDP** further enhanced the strong focus of Wexford County Council in the tourism sector, adding that with the continued joined-up approach of stakeholders, the future looks bright.

4. Presentation on recently launched report 'Economic, Business & Community Opportunities for Offshore Renewable Energy in Ireland's South East Region' – Richard Hickey, Ireland South-East Development Office.

Liz Hore, Director of Services, advised the committee that this was a new area of development for the region, and that the South-East Development Office presented a focus on offshore renewable energy, along with the required skills and capacity for project delivery.

Richard Hickey delivered the presentation outlining the potential combined economic and community benefits of full project delivery before responding to the queries of the committee members.

Chair, Cllr John Fleming, proposed that correspondence be sent to *Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment* from the *Economic Development & Enterprise SPC* fully supporting the full delivery of all four proposed windfarm sites off the coast of Wexford/Waterford, namely:

- *Area A – Tonn Nua*
- *Area B – Lí Ban*
- *Area C - Manannán*
- *Area D - Danu*

All those present endorsed the proposal from the Chair.

5. Special Projects Report

Sean Meyler, Senior Engineer, responded to queries arising from the previously circulated report.

The Senior Engineer, gave an overview of the new ***Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund***, a new government initiative aimed at revitalising disadvantaged urban areas, replacing the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) with expanded eligibility and higher funding support, advising that there will be 2 categories of funding available under the first “call for proposals” to be announced:

- *Category 1A – Plan and Project Development*
- *Category 1B – Capital Funding*

Following a request from Cllr Michael Sheehan, the Senior Engineer agreed to circulate information on each of the available funding schemes.

Liz Hore, Director of Services, advised the meeting that the new funding scheme was a positive move from a Wexford perspective, and that the Planning Department would prioritise projects where required.

Following comment from Cllr Joe Sullivan, An Cathaoirleach, Wexford County Council, on the ***Trinity Wharf Project***, the Senior Engineer gave a progress report on its status.

Liz Hore, Director of Services, advised the meeting that the complexity and scale of the project was very ambitious and that much unseen progress was being made, with a number of developers of scale having expressed an interest through

a developed detailed tendering process. Further confirming the appointment of Deloitte to assist on the project, advising that each proposal would now be fully assessed and would ultimately be developer and market led.

Cllr Michael Sheehan raised the Advanced Factory in New Ross possibly looking at alternative business park.

Liz Hore, Director of Services, stated as per of the County Development Plan review an economic study on the County would be carried out identifying opportunities.

6. Economic Development Report

The previously circulated report was noted by the committee members.

7. Local Enterprise Office Report

The previously circulated report was noted by the committee members.

8. Tourism Development Report

Billy Byrne, Tourism Development Officer, responded to queries arising from the previously circulated report, giving a detailed update on **2027, European Year of the Normans**.

Liz Hore, Director of Services, advised the meeting that Wexford County Council are working closely with the Department on this national initiative in seeking centralised funding to ensure full delivery of all the proposed countywide projects.

9. AOB

Paula Roche, CEO Wexford Chamber, called for an end to the current fuel protests in the interest of the business community.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed on the 16th July 2026



Cllr John Fleming
Chairperson
Economic Development & Enterprise SPC